REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 have been canceled in favor of new Claims 9-16. The new claims have been rewritten with an eye toward overcoming the objections found in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, which is believed to be moot.

In particular, new Claim 9 is based upon original Claims 1 and 2, and elements of original Claim 3, and further recites that the sliding groove in the vertical frame member opens toward the screen side, and that the screen comprises an elongated end plate which is detachably mounted to the vertical frame member so as to cover the guide part and the adjusting member in the sliding groove. Basis for the additional limitation is found in the end plate 11b illustrated in Figures 14-15.

In response to the objection of the specification, page 14 has been amended as noted in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. However, it is noted that the term "lee" is an appropriate term to describe the downwind side.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Japanese patent publication 2002-371776 in view of Japanese patent publication 30587007. According to the Office Action, JP '776 discloses the claimed invention except for a wire adjusting mechanism, which is taught in JP '007. Nonetheless, no obvious combination of the prior art would teach or suggest the presently claimed invention, including a vertical frame member having a longitudinal sliding groove opening in a direction facing the screen, wherein the elongated end plate of the screen is detachably mounted to the vertical frame member so as to cover the guide part and the adjusting member in the sliding groove.

JP '776 is described on pages 1 and 2 of the specification. As is there explained, it comprises a sliding screen door of the type having a pleated screen with a wire extending through the screen to suppress the expansion of the screen due to an outside force such as a

wind. In JP '776, the wire is attached to a sinker or weight whose movement is limited by a spring. However, the force of the wire cannot be easily adjusted.

According to a feature of the invention, the force of the wire is easily adjusted by a wire adjusting mechanism which is adjustably mounted to a vertical frame member of the frame body of the sliding screen. According to the invention, the wire adjusting mechanism comprises a guide part attached to the vertical frame member and an adjusting member capable of sliding along a longitudinal direction of the vertical frame member and being attached to the vertical frame member, wherein the wire is fixed to the guide part or adjusting member. The vertical frame member comprises a longitudinal sliding groove slidably housing the guide member and adjusting member and opening in a direction facing the screen, wherein an elongated end plate of the screen is detachably mounted to the vertical frame member so as to cover the guide part and the adjusting member in the sliding groove.

For example, referring to the non-limiting embodiment illustrated in the figures, a vertical frame member 12a includes a sliding groove 44 which houses an adjusting mechanism 30 including a guide part 31 and an adjusting member 32. The sliding groove 44 opens in a direction facing the screen, and an elongated end plate 11b of the screen is detachably mounted to the vertical frame member 12a so as to cover the sliding groove 44.

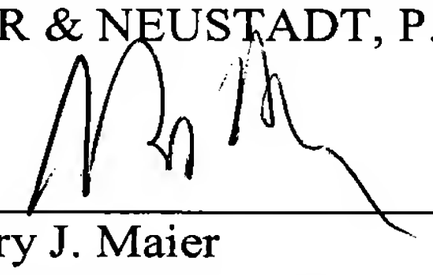
There is no disclosure of such an arrangement in JP '776. Moreover, JP '007 similarly fails to teach these features. Accordingly, the amended claims define over any combination of the above references.

Claims 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over JP '776 in view of JP '007, and further in view of Japanese patent publication 2002-357068, which was cited to teach a latching mechanism including a receiving hole. Nonetheless, JP '068 fails to overcome the shortcomings of JP '776 and JP '007 with respect to new Claim 9 or its dependent claims.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Robert T. Pous
Registration No. 29,099
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

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